



PUBLIC HEALTH BYTES

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Henrico Health Department's Newsletter

Working in partnership
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the conditions for health.

August 2007

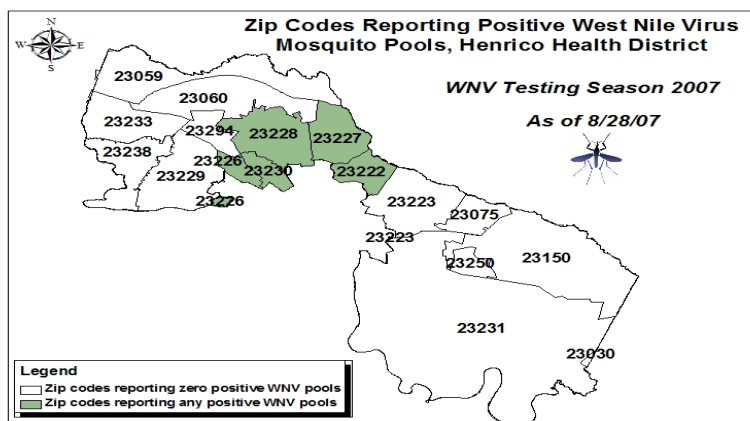
Volume 3

Issue 8

Community Health Improvement

Infant Mortality: The Richmond Regional Summit on Infant Mortality will be held on October 22-23, 2007 at the Downtown Richmond Marriott. The purpose of the summit is to raise awareness about infant mortality, low birth weight and prematurity and to engage the community in addressing this problem. For details, call (804) 795-4322 or visit www.regonline.com/RegionalSummit2007. Registration fee is \$55 (includes 12.5 Category I CME hours). Collaborators include Richmond City Healthy Start Initiative, Richmond City Health Department, VCU, Bon Secours, HCA, March of Dimes and Henrico Health Department, among others.

Communicable Diseases Update



To date, West Nile Virus positive mosquito pools have been reported in the following Henrico County zip codes: 23222, 23226, 23227, 23228, and 23230 (see map). One human WNV case was reported in Virginia, but none have been confirmed in the Richmond metropolitan area. For updates on WNV activity see: <http://www.co.henrico.va.us/health/westnile.html>.

Pandemic Flu/Avian Flu- ALERT PHASE: 3

Pandemic/Avian Flu Update: Human Cases—During the month of August, three new H5N1 human cases were reported—all in Indonesia and all of which were fatal. The 2003-2007 cumulative case fatality rate for human H5N1 cases remains steady at 60.6% (195 deaths/322 cases). **Seasonal Influenza: MMWR 2007; 56 (RR-6)** Changes in 2007-08 flu vaccine recommendations include the following: **Children 6 months through 8 years of age who received only 1 dose in their first year of vaccination should receive 2 doses the SECOND YEAR they are vaccinated.** Continue to vaccinate throughout influenza season (December-March), as the influenza season often peaks in the U.S. and Virginia between February and March. **Both TIV and LAIV should be stored at refrigerator temperature (35°- 46° F) at all times and neither vaccine should be exposed to freezing temperatures.**

School Health/Prevention

School related: There continues to be concern about the number of entering 6th grade students without Tdap booster or documentation of such vaccination. **This school year, there is no grace period therefore students who do not have adequate vaccination documentation will be turned away from school on the first day of classes (Tuesday, September 4th).** You can assist your patients by doing the following: **Ensure that all entering 6th graders have adequate documentation concerning their Tdap status.** Students must have the Tdap booster before entering sixth grade unless they have received a tetanus-containing vaccine within the past five years, or a medical or religious exemption.

For any 6th grader who is not yet 11 years of age, you can provide a temporary medical exemption which will be valid until their 11th birthday at which time they must have proof of Tdap vaccination. **Evaluate your practice's availability to provide vaccine to your patients during the last week of August and the first week of classes** to ensure that students' time out of school is minimized. Although the health departments have been holding special clinics over the summer and will have clinic time available during the first week of school, we will not be able to handle a large influx of students over a short time period if a large number of students remain unvaccinated.

Prevention updates: From the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF): ... "The USPSTF concludes that the evidence is insufficient to recommend for or against routine screening for lipid disorders in infants, children, adolescents, or young adults (up to age 20)." See <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/uspstf/uspsschlip.htm>.

Emergency Preparedness

HENRICO PANDEMIC INFLUENZA SUMMIT was held on August 3, 2007 with over 180 attendees representing multiple organizations within Henrico County. At www.HenricoPrepares.org you will find a summary of the summit and critical planning resources.

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